

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**

*Statement by Minister for Disability Services*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services)** [9.21 am]: I rise today to inform members about International Day of People with Disability, which is coming up very shortly. Celebrated on 3 December every year, this United Nations-sanctioned day aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability, and to celebrate their achievements and contributions. WA's theme for the day in 2023 is "My Life, Our Community", which acknowledges that everyone has the right to make decisions for their life. The theme also highlights the value and importance of everyone having the opportunity to be involved and play an active role within their community.

An estimated 411 500 Western Australians live with disability, and there are hundreds of events planned around the state to mark the day, ranging from social inclusion forums and corporate lunches to market days. The Cook government has once again provided a total of \$100 000 in funding to 98 community organisations for 100 inclusive events and activities to be held across Western Australia to mark International Day of People with Disability.

Highlights of this year's events across the metro area include a catwalk show and model photoshoot for people with disability at WA Museum Boola Bardip, hosted by CIRCULAR and Wearable Art; a wheelchair basketball session in Cannington, hosted by Rebound WA; and a tenancy skills workshop hosted by Shelter WA and People with Disabilities WA. Fifty per cent of this year's events will be held in the regions and will include an equestrian event in Collie, hosted by the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia; an all-inclusive day, including hands-on encounters with snakes, lizards and ferrets, hosted by Ranger Red's Zoo and Conservation Park in Pinjarra; and an inclusive bingo event in Katanning, hosted by Anglicare, to name a few.

I also look forward to celebrating the achievements of people with disability in Western Australia again this year at the annual National Disability Services WA lunch in celebration of International Day of People with Disability. Proudly supported by the state government and co-designed with people with disability, this year's lunch will again feature the popular marketplace showcasing local enterprises and microenterprises run by people with disability.

The Cook government's support of International Day of People with Disability is an important part of building inclusive communities, and I sincerely hope that all Western Australians will take the opportunity to reflect and think about what they are doing to ensure that people with disability are engaged and empowered. Thank you.